

## New north campus apartments, parking garage approved

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

The NU Board of Regents voted unanimously Friday to approve proposals for the creation of 400 new beds and as many as 900 new parking stalls on north campus.

The move was the second step in a plan initiated by the board last January, when proposals were solicited from private developers. Interim Chancellor John Christensen called it a "hallmark day" for UNO.

"We've been working on the details of how to get it started over the course of that 12 months," he said. "I'm really pleased they approved our plan."

The apartment-style residences will be located adjacent to University Village, but unlike existing suites, the new housing will feature internal loading like the residences on south campus. Internal loading has been cited previously as a priority by students for safety reasons.

Parking was also addressed by the plan, both to deal with congestion and offset lost parking from the housing project.

The university proposed both 600- and 900-stall options to the board. The 900-stall option would produce a net gain of 567 parking spaces on campus, which would serve the needs of student housing residents on campus. The 600-stall plan

would offer a cheaper alternative at \$8,071,650 compared to the 900-stall plan's \$11,849,746 estimate.

"I want to be on the record that we need to have the 900-stall garage," said Regent Chuck Hassebrook during the meeting.

Both projects were part of UNO's 2006-2015 facilities development plan that envisioned the consolidation of parking on north campus to three parking structures. That plan also projects additional housing development on south campus, including the termination of Pine Street into a cul-de-sac, as well as housing on a new campus south of Center Street.

In addition to approving the housing and parking proposals, the regents voted Friday to purchase about 10 acres of land from Douglas County at 67th and Center streets.

NU President James B. Milliken said he was excited about the housing project, particularly that UNO is planning to implement a cost-efficient project on its own.

"I think this presents a great opportunity for the campus," he said. "Now we've got to move ahead as quickly as we can to get the new residence open."

Christensen agreed, expressing optimism that the projects will stay on

See **HOUSING**: Page 4



photo by Patrick Doty

### Coyotes ugly to Mavs

Senior Karen Thies pushes the ball upcourt in UNO's game against South Dakota Thursday night at Sapp Fieldhouse. Despite Thies' 10 points and team-leading seven rebounds, the Mavs fell to the No. 17 Coyotes 70-55. See full story on pg. 6.

## University considers handgun sign policy, UNMC low vision house

### Board of Regents



Charles Wilson

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

The University of Nebraska regents welcomed new members and elected new leaders during its first meeting of the year Friday. Highlights of the meeting included an affirmation of a university-wide concealed weapons ban, an overview of UNK's facilities development plan, the creation of a "Low Vision House" at the Med Center and the approval of student housing and parking initiatives at UNO.

The board began its meeting by naming District 1 Regent Charles Wilson

of Lincoln its chairperson for 2007. Wilson, a retired cardiologist, has served on the board since 1990 and previously served as its chair in 1994 and 2001. Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Lyons was named vice chair.

The board also welcomed three new faces: UNO Student Regent Alexander Williams, UNMC Student Regent Jonathan Henning and District 4 Regent Bob Whitehouse, who represents parts of Douglas and Sarpy counties.

"I think [the meeting] went very well," Williams said. "I was very impressed with how the board operates."

Despite it being his first meeting,

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## Absences, abstentions mark first session for new executive council

### Student Senate

TAYLOR MULLER  
ASST. SECTION EDITOR

The first Student Senate legislative session since the installation of the newly-elected student government president/regent and vice president got off to a fresh start, passing two resolutions and a letter of statement while tabling another resolution indefinitely. The senate also appointed a new recording secretary, but the meeting was marked by the absence of two senators.

Sam Haddad, College of Public Affairs and Community Service senator, and Rahman Strum, graduate class senator, were both absent from meeting, making them eligible for impeachment. Student President/Regent Alexander Williams was also absent

because he was in Lincoln for Friday's Board of Regents meeting.

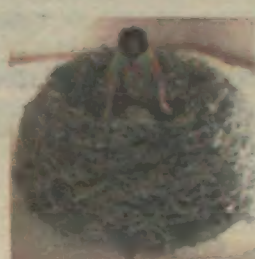
Attendance is dealt with through a point system, said Speaker Cassy Loseke. Each senator is allowed up to three points; a missed senate session counts as one point.

Loseke said she would talk to each of the absent senators, and articles of impeachment would be drawn up and voted on during the next senate meeting on Feb. 1.

Despite the absences, Loseke said the meeting went well, a sentiment Vice President Michael White echoed.

"I thought it went really well. It was good; we passed a lot of legislation," said White. "Absences are always going to be a

See **SENATE**: Page 4





## News You Can Use

COMPILED BY  
KEENA SPENCER-DOBSON  
STAFF WRITER

### HPER offers various programs for spring semester

In the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building this spring, Campus Recreation and the Wellness Stampede will offer dance lessons.

Programs offered by HPER include swing and Latin dance lessons. Both classes start on Sunday, Feb. 11, and end Sunday, March 4. Swing dancing is taught from 2 to 3 p.m. and Latin dancing from 3 to 4 p.m. Lessons cost \$15 for activity card holders and \$18 for non-activity card holders, with an additional fee of \$5 to attend both classes.

### Common office supplies to benefit UNO

The Staff Advisory Council and UNO Mail Services are encouraging all campus departments to recycle their printer and toner cartridges. The money received from

this recycling program will benefit UNO, with two-thirds of the money earned going to student scholarships and the remaining going to ongoing SAC projects. Used ink cartridges or toner cartridges can be sent to Mail Services in room 106 of the Eppley Administration Building.

### Writing Center announces spring hours

The Writing Center, located in Arts and Sciences Hall room 150, is open to help students with their new spring hours. Not only can students come into the writing center, they can also receive help through the Writing Center Satellite located on the first floor of the Criss Library or online through the Writing Center online at unomaha.edu/writingcenter. The hours for all of these services are as follows:

Writing Center (ASH 150)

Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

(Closed Wednesdays from 3 to 4 p.m.)  
Friday, 9 a.m. to noon

Writing Center Satellite

Monday through Thursday, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Writing Center Online

Sunday, 6 to 10 p.m.

Monday through Wednesday, 7 to 9 p.m.

### Honors Program hosts blood drive

Because one person needs blood every two seconds, the Honors Program will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center.

To sign up to donate blood, visit [givelife.org](http://givelife.org) and enter sponsor code 0091871. You can also sign up by contacting Erin Burke at 554-2696 or [eburke@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:eburke@mail.unomaha.edu).

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The Gateway is published by the University of Nebraska at Omaha Student Publications Committee on Tuesdays and Fridays during the fall and spring semesters and on Tuesdays during the summer sessions.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the Advertising Manager. Other inquiries and complaints should be directed to the Editor-in-Chief. Copies of the Student Publications Committee inquiry/complaint policy are available at The Gateway's office, Milo Bail Student Center Room 115.

The Gateway is funded as follows: 70 percent advertising revenue, 30 percent student fees allocated by Student Government.

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**Gateway**

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Omaha, NE 68182-0197

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## UNO student attempts to 'save the world' after studying abroad

DREW HANSON  
STAFF WRITER

Many students at UNO will go through the paces during their four-year stint without ever taking advantage of opportunities that could take them around the world and change their lives. Kristen Taylor was not about to be one of those students.

Taylor, 23, was living her life on a series of whims after graduating high school in 2002, including deciding to attend Rockhurst University for her first semester of college.

"I just wanted to get out of Omaha, and that was the only university I visited, so I thought it would do," Taylor said.

Her hometown of Omaha, where she graduated from Mercy High School, beckoned her return after Rockhurst proved to be too small for her.

"UNO is so much more diverse than a small, Jesuit university," she said.

In fact, the diversity of UNO helped to incubate Taylor's passion for understanding other cultures.

Once back in Omaha, she decided to major in secondary education and minor in Spanish.

"I had been studying Spanish at the college level for three years at that point," she said. "I was very interested in Mexican culture and thought I should experience it."

After researching the variety of study abroad programs UNO offers, she settled on traveling to Guadalajara, Mexico.

"I sent in my application and asked my mom if I could move back home to save money," she said.

With this conviction, nothing was going to stop her from heading south.

The next semester, Taylor took off for the central Mexican city for two and a half months of complete culture immersion. While there, she stayed with a host family who cared for her and showed her the ropes in the second most populated metropolitan city in Mexico.

"I never thought I would be able to make it in a city that big, especially if they didn't speak my first language," Taylor said. "But I was accepted with such open arms by my professors, my host family and everyone I met in Mexico."

Her main objective while abroad was to take classes, but on weekends she traveled to surrounding cities to ingest a wider berth of the Mexican culture.

When she returned to the U.S., Taylor brought this newfound sense of acceptance back to Omaha, where she applied it to all aspects of her life. She began volunteering at the Juan Diego Center helping people prepare

See **ABROAD**: Page 4

### Real Fashion



Alex May

surrounding it just so I can open the door. It always puts me in a frigid mood.

But even worse? The winter fashion blahs.

I wonder if it's a legitimate symptom of SAD (seasonal affective disorder) that makes me don oversized hoodies, leggings and my should've-been-put-out-to-pasture-last-year Uggs. The thought of denim makes me shiver, and the static-cling of wool makes me shudder. Funny how I look forward to fall every year so I can layer and cozy up, but a couple of months later I look more like a bag lady than Mary-Kate Olsen (correction: I've just received word that that's not possible).

But still, there's no need for a few flurries to get in the way of fierce fashion. My advice? Get inspired and get back in the game, baby!

Find inspiration in the pages of a fashion magazine.

I love to find outrageously expensive and amazing outfits and try to copy

them for less money. I hit thrift stores, boutiques, Target and the mall to find designer knockoffs and funky look-alikes. I especially love W and Vogue Magazines.

Online? Check out zoozoom.com. Stores like forever21.com offer great pieces for less dough. Don't forget to play up a simple outfit with crazy accessories, especially those you can only get away with in the winter, like furry boots and hats, scarves, shrugs and parkas.

Get out there and see the world, or at least what Omaha has to offer for fashion.

Scam on the locals with great style or check out the Cities Runway Fashion Show at Nico on Jan. 27. The show will cover fashion, hair and makeup from all the major cities like London, Tokyo, Paris, New York, L.A. and Las Vegas. Tickets are only \$20 at T'eez Salon and all proceeds go to the Make-A-Wish foundation to grant a deserving child's wish.

#### Stage a swap.

Gather some stuff you don't love anymore and get together with a few friends who've done the same. Trade piece for piece and breathe the life back into your closet without spending anything but closet space, which you will quickly be replacing with your new duds. Another good idea is to sell old clothes for trade-in value or cash at Plato's Closet.

I'm no role model, as I've already admitted. But I'll try to beat the winter blahs if you do. Consider this yet another New Year's resolution.

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It is the responsibility of each student to know the tuition payment schedule, the late payment fee policy and the refund policy and deadlines.

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# Student Government Open Positions

## Legislative and Public Relations Officer

The LPR acts as the liaison between the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, the State Legislature, Omaha City Council and other governmental agencies. The LPR in addition to its legislative duties promotes the University Student Government to the student body, governs the student elections process, appoints the Election Commission members and completes any other activities requested by all branches of the University Student Government.

## Executive Treasurer

The Executive Treasurer maintains the revenues and expenses of the entire University Student Government, chairs the Student Activities Budget Committee (SABC) and provides reports to the Senate and Executive Council when necessary.

## American Multicultural Students Director

The American Multicultural Students Agency provides support, assistance and guidance to multicultural students attending UNO by providing programs and events designed to increase awareness about various cultures. Speakers, forums and photographic exhibits are just a few of the programs coordinated through AMS.

## Network for disabled Students Director

The primary mission of the Network for disabled Students Agency (NDS) is to provide services at UNO to students with disabilities. These services include a library of multimedia materials for research and educational usage as well as specialized equipment. NDS is an advocate and referral service regarding disability issues and also provides programs that promote awareness about the diverse issues concerning those who are disabled.

## Election Commission

The 9 person commission is responsible for counseling candidates during the election season(s), determining the merit of grievances filed against candidates for any student office, the implementation and enforcement of the Election Rules and Provisions, and the validation of the election results.

## College of Arts & Science Senator

The College of Arts & Science Senator must be a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and in the College of Arts & Science. Senators research and propose legislation that is in the best interest of the student body. Senators must attend a meeting every Thursday at 7 p.m. and complete one office hour a week.

## College of Public Affairs & Comm Service Senator

The College of Public Affairs and Community Service Senator must be a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service. Senators research and propose legislation that is in the best interest of the student body. Senators must attend a meeting every Thursday at 7 p.m. and complete one office hour a week.

## College of Education and Human Sciences Senator

The Education and Human Sciences Senator must be a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and in the College of Education and Human Sciences. Senators research and propose legislation that is in the best interest of the student body. Senators must attend a meeting every Thursday at 7 p.m. and complete one office hour a week.

## Graduate College Senator

The Graduate College Senator must be a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and in the Graduate College. Senators research and propose legislation that is in the best interest of the student body. Senators must attend a meeting every Thursday at 7 p.m. and complete one office hour a week.

## Graduate Class Senator

The Graduate Class Senator must be a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and in the Graduate Class. Senators research and propose legislation that is in the best interest of the student body. Senators must attend a meeting every Thursday at 7 p.m. and complete one office hour a week.



Applications are available on the Student Government website at <http://sguno.unomaha.edu> and in our office located on the 1st floor of the Milo Bail Student Center. Please stop by or call 554-2620 with any questions.

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From **ABROAD**: Page 3

for their citizenship interviews. She then took a job as a paraprofessional at Masters Elementary School.

While working seven days a week and going to school full time, Taylor manages to exude an air of selflessness that is uncommon among her peers.

"I want to teach because I want to reach teenagers and help them enjoy school and hopefully be someone they

can trust. I want to learn Spanish because I think that can help me reach so many others in our community. I have a lot of dreams."

She said her mother once told her she could not save the world.

"I've never forgotten that," Taylor said. "I know that she was trying to cushion the blow for me in the future, but all I want to do is help people."

From **HOUSING**: Page 1

schedule. Construction on both projects is scheduled to begin in June, and the housing is expected to be open by July 2008, while the parking will open the next month.

"I think the probability of us being able to move this forward ... is very high," Christensen said.

Student Regent Alexander Williams said he was "very satisfied" with the results, noting the importance of no regents opposing the move. When the idea of housing first came under consideration

in 2005, there was some concern that increasing housing at UNO would harm enrollment at UNL and UNK.

However, the approved proposal takes note of how increasing available on-campus housing to 1,620 beds would serve 11 percent of the current student population. This would make UNO more competitive with other metropolitan universities, which offer space for 13 percent of students on average, a number that has increased 1 percent since the board's meeting on Nov. 11, 2005.

From **REGENTS**: Page 1

Williams made his first dissenting vote when the regents adopted a policy concerning the prohibition of possession of concealed weapons and firearms on university property.

The policy calls for notices to be placed "as each Chancellor shall determine to be appropriate" in accordance with the Nebraskan Concealed Handgun Permit Act. This follows an opinion by Nebraska Attorney General Jon Burning saying the university is not considered a school under the current act.

Williams joined Regent Kent Schroeder in voting against the policy, saying it should be up to the legislature to clarify the law.

State Sen. John Harms introduced a bill, LB491, on Jan. 17 designed to include the "building, grounds, vehicle, or sponsored activity or athletic event of any private or public school, or private or public university, college, or community college" to the list of places where concealed handguns may not be carried.

"I agreed with Regent Schroeder," Williams said afterwards. "The university should allow the state to redefine what they [consider a school]."

From **SENATE**: Page 1

slowdown. It's never a good thing to miss a meeting."

A resolution defending student copyright was one of the resolutions before the senate. Submitted by Sen. Joshua Wiechman, the resolution was passed unanimously. It stated that a "student's consent must be provided in writing before the university use of copyright works."

Loseke's appointment of Jenny Beede as recording secretary was passed by the senate with little discussion.

However, another resolution was not as easily moved through the legislative process. The resolution aimed to bring credit card machines to the Milo Bail Student Center cafeteria was tabled indefinitely after some discussion among the senators.

A letter of statement regarding student residence security, especially on the south campus, was passed after being submitted by Wiechman and Loseke.

Agents of the company that manages

Scott Village and Scott Hall have "entered into the apartment-suites without consent and adequate notification on multiple occasions," according to the letter.

During the senate discussion, this act was referred to as "knock-and-unlock." Despite language within the letter defining the acts as "unlawful and unnecessary," and calling for the senators to "speak out and take a stand on issues that affect students," more than half of the senators abstained from voting. The letter passed 9-4.

Loseke said she was surprised at the number of abstentions, adding she believed it was because many senators did not want to be held accountable.

The next senate meeting will be Feb. 1. These meetings are open to anyone interested in attending, something White said he would like to promote.

"Every meeting is open, that's something I would like to see; more students at the meetings," said White.

[www.unogateway.com](http://www.unogateway.com)



# Arts & Leisure

Michael McManus | Arts & Leisure

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a&l@gateway.unomaha.edu | January 23, 2007

## UNO student's unconventional artwork at Bemis Underground

KATIE ZABROCKI  
STAFF WRITER

"One Man's Trash." That's the aptly-named title of Bart Vargas' solo show opening in a few weeks at the Bemis Underground. One look at his work and you can quickly see why.

Vargas is a sculpture major in the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media and his work is primarily composed of discarded items most people would find of little or no use.

"The Nest," composed of a wooden frame surrounded by cables and wires, was a very visible example of Vargas' sculpture work at UNO. It was on display in UNO's Criss Memorial Library since late May, but has since been moved to the exhibit downtown.

"It all started with a friend giving me keyboards and saying 'What can you do with these?' and kind of went from there," said Vargas.

The sculpture spans 10 feet and took three years to collect all the materials used to create it. It took him three months to glue all the keyboard keys on to the "egg" part of the sculpture. He then built the nest, which took considerably less time, only two weeks.

Besides using old technology for his art, Vargas has also used telephone line, abandoned mattresses and wood used from theater sets he



*"One Man's Trash," the one man show opening at the Bemis Underground on Jan. 26, will feature UNO student Bart Vargas' off-the-wall and one-of-a-kind sculptures.*

found in university dumpsters. Although he has searched for his trash a few times, most has come from

people who have given him items they don't use anymore.

"I take things society doesn't want

and try to make something of value," says Vargas.

Currently, much of Vargas' sculpture work is done either at his apartment or the school's studios.

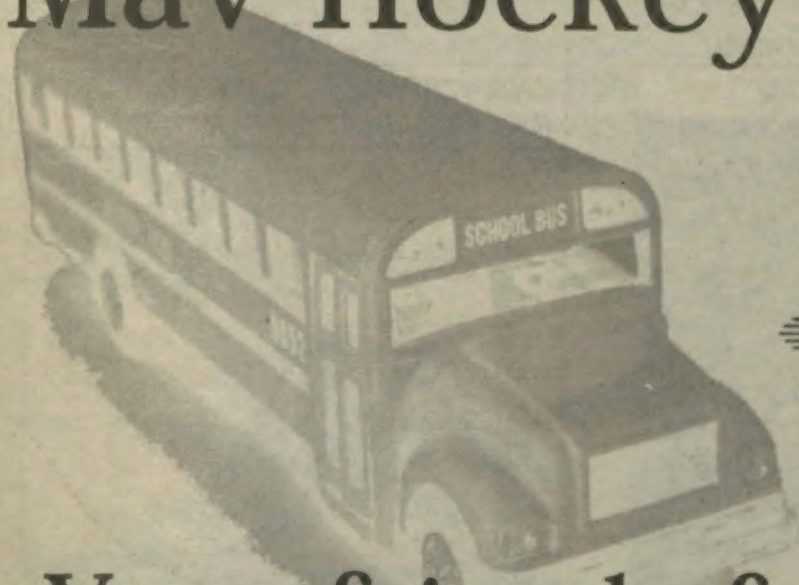
"Right now I work anywhere I can," Vargas said. "I kind of use my living space as a work space." The hard work is paying off, though. He recently sold a sphere covered with keys from a computer keyboard (similar to the egg in "The Nest") for \$3,000.

Vargas started sculpting 10 years ago, but said he's always been painting and drawing. Deciding between sculpting and painting was a difficult decision, and Vargas said he's made more paintings than sculptures since he's been at UNO. He plans on graduating this spring with an undergraduate degree in sculpture. From there he's interested in getting a master's degree in fine arts from Minnesota or Iowa.

To see more of his work, Vargas' show at the Bemis Underground, "One Man's Trash," opens Friday, Jan. 26, from 7 to 10 p.m. The show will run from Jan. 26 through Feb. 24.

The Bemis Underground is located on the northwest corner of 12th and Leavenworth streets and is underneath the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art. To get more information on Vargas or the Bemis Underground go to [bemisunderground.org](http://bemisunderground.org).

## Attention all Mav Hockey Fans!!



## Your friends from Student Government

will be providing FREE bus rides to  
and from all remaining weekend  
home Mav hockey games.

Buses leave the North Campus Bell Tower  
promptly at 6:30.

This week's opponent:

# Northern Michigan

January 26th & 27th

## Fund A Refunds

Fund A Refund forms for the  
spring semester are available at  
Cashiering/Student Accounts in  
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## January 22

through

## February 16



## Wrestlers blow out St. Cloud in dual, nab two titles at Brand Open

JASON GLENN  
SPORTS EDITOR

After relinquishing their National Duals crown last weekend, the Maverick wrestlers were looking for somebody to take their frustrations out on.

With a home dual meet and tournament this weekend, they got their chance.

Their first opportunity came when St. Cloud State strolled into Sapp Fieldhouse Friday night.

With each team forfeiting one weight class, the No. 4 Mavs steamrolled the Huskies in seven of eight matches and cruised to a 37-12 win.

Senior 174-pounder JD Naig and sophomore 165-pounder Ross Taplin each had pins to punctuate the Maverick win as the team improved to 4-1 overall and 1-0 in the NCC.

UNO also got a technical fall by sophomore Todd Meneely at 149 pounds and major decisions from freshman Jeff Rau at 133 and red shirt freshman Jacob Marrs at 197.

The Mavs didn't have to wait long or travel far for another chance to release some aggression as they hosted the Brand Open the following day.

Naig and Marrs again came up big, each rolling over their opponents on the way to individual titles.

Naig racked up three pins to make it to the 174-pound finals where he downed Nebraska's Andy Johnson 10-5. For his efforts, Naig was named the meet's outstanding wrestler.

Marrs notched a pin and a technical fall on his way to the 197-pound championship match where he did away with Jake Smith from Wyoming in just over two minutes.

Sophomore Tony Lewis, at 285 pounds, and freshman Austin Boehm, at 184, both went 2-1 and finished in second. Freshman Jeff Rau, at 133, and sophomore Henry Wahle, at 157, each notched 4-1 records wrestling back to capture third.

The Maverick wrestlers will be at home again this weekend when they host Division III powerhouse Augsburg Friday night at Sapp Fieldhouse.

## Mavs hockey picks up split on road

CHARLEY REED  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

While a split on the road is nothing to be ashamed of this late in the season, Maverick hockey coach Mike Kemp can't be all that thrilled about missing a chance to sweep the weakest team remaining on UNO's schedule.

After a three-game home stand last weekend, the team traveled to Ferris State, which is ranked 11th in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association.

Going into the weekend, UNO had an 11-5-2 record against Ferris State, and a strong effort from freshman goaltender Jeremie Dupont helped put another notch in the win column.

Tomas Klempa started Friday's scoring with his 10th goal of the season after redirecting an assist from freshman defenseman Ed Del Grosso.

Klempa assisted sophomore defenseman Juha Uotila on the power play to make it a 2-0 game.

Ferris State's Matt Verdone snuck one past Dupont at 12:45 in the third period, closing the gap to a one-goal lead for UNO.

Ferris State appeared to be gaining momentum late in the game until Maverick senior forward Alex Nikiforuk plucked the puck from the faceoff circle, flew down the ice and buried his 9th goal of the season to seal the 3-1 victory.

Saturday looked to be a carryover from Friday's game with UNO and FSU at one-a-piece after one period.

But as snow began to fall over Omaha on Saturday night, the Mavericks fell victim to a flurry of goals that gave the Bulldogs a three-point lead.

Down 4-1 heading into the third, the Mavericks tried to pull off a late-game comeback with goals from Dan Charleston and Mick Lawrence but Ferris State's Zac Pearson was able to notch an empty-net goal at 19:13 of the third to put the game out of reach.

With the two-point weekend, UNO moved up in the conference standings. Now at 8-8-2, the Mavericks are tied for fifth place with Ohio State.

The Mavs return to the Qwest Center ice next weekend for a double-header against Northern Michigan, one of three CCHA teams tied for sixth place.

## Men's b-ball drops two to Dakotas

JASON GLENN  
SPORTS EDITOR

For the struggling UNO men's basketball team, neither home nor away was friendly Dakota territory this week.

The Mavs lost 93-78 to a hot South Dakota team Thursday at Sapp Fieldhouse and then fell 75-73 to North Dakota in a nail-biter at Grand Forks Saturday night.

The losses drop the Mavericks to 10-8 overall and 1-3 in North Central Conference play.

Thursday the Mavs came up against a South Dakota squad with a nine-game winning streak.

The Coyotes looked every bit the part as they raced to a 19-7 lead to open the game, but UNO rebounded and went on a hot streak of their own, scoring 17 of the next 20 points to take a 24-22 lead.

USD regained their touch, though, and worked back to a 36-32 halftime advantage.

The score remained tight until about eight minutes to go in the game when USD found their three-point range and launched a 15-4 run that proved too much for the Mavs to overcome.

Senior Zac Robinson led UNO with 19 points, including four three-pointers and senior Keith Price added 15 in 24 minutes on the court.

Hitting the road proved no more effective for the Mavs, as North Dakota used a late-second half surge to squeak by UNO for a crushing 75-73 win.

Led by Emmanuel Little, the Fighting Sioux shot 61.5 percent in the second half to stay in the game and overtake the Mavs in the final two minutes.

Senior Keith Price, who has provided a much-needed offensive infusion since rejoining the lineup, took an elbow to the face on a rebound attempt and left the game with a concussion and in need of stitches.

## Women's basketball comes up short against ranked Dakota

JASON GLENN  
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO women's basketball team continued having a tough time with their early conference schedule.

The Mavericks came up short against two ranked opponents this weekend, falling 70-55 to No. 17 South Dakota Thursday night at Sapp Fieldhouse and 95-67 to No. 1

See **WOMEN'S B-BALL**: Page 8

## Wanted: Year-In-Review Editor

The Gateway's Year-In-Review is a magazine-format compilation of the school year's events. The 68-page '06/'07 version will be on the stands Monday, April 23, 2007. The editor will hire his or her own staff and coordinate stories, photos and production. Applicants must be able to edit to AP style and have a working knowledge of Microsoft Word and InDesign.

Pick up applications at the Gateway office, MBSC 115.

Call Carol at 554-2471 if you have any questions.

Application deadline is Friday, Feb. 2 at 5 p.m.



## the morning...

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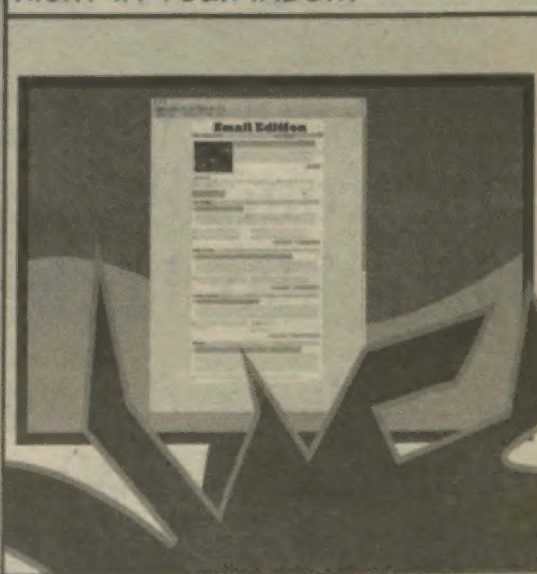
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## Heineman's budget reductions cheat University of Nebraska

### Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

I was approached at Friday's Board of Regents meeting and asked how I managed to take notes as a reporter when listening to a chunk of statistics.

This question referred to that morning's budget affairs committee meeting, when State Budget Administrator Gerry Oligmueller and NU Director of Budget Chris Kabourek both gave statistically rich analyses of Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman's recent budget proposal.

In an attempt to be ironic I said, "I'm thankful I'm a math major." But one hardly needs to have upper-division math courses to understand the lip service Heineman has offered to the university in lieu of the support we need.

The first thing you need to know is how politics works. Politics is the game of balancing conflicting and often greedy issues, objectives and agendas. One thing that is important in politics is that you be able to sound supportive whenever you cut support for a program.

For instance, Heineman's proposal technically increases NU funding by 1.1 percent. Never mind that this would be the third-lowest increase in 40 years, third only to 1994 and 2004, two years of serious budget cuts made during economic downturns.

Another example is that Heineman's proposal recommends investing \$1 million more per year in need-based financial aid, claiming this will "help encourage more Nebraskan graduates to attend college." Never mind that his meager funding increase would not even cover expected mandatory expenditure increases and that tuition is likely to rise as a result.

After all, no NU student has ever

considered tuition when looking at their higher education alternatives before.

The fact is that the governor's proposal cuts about \$24.2 million out of NU's budget next year and about \$33.3 million out of fiscal year 2008. These cuts are going to be felt by students, whether in the quality of our programs or the tuition dollars we pay.

Now, of course, we can still ask whether this is necessary. After all, Heineman's job is to keep the best interest of the state in mind. There seem to be two schools of thought here.

One attitude is that of Heineman's during his address on Jan. 11: "I am asking all Nebraskans to sacrifice today for the long-term best interests of our state."

At first blush this sounds reasonable, especially with the promise of a tax refund check, but is decreasing funds to NU really the best way to find money in the budget? Heineman proposes repealing the estate tax, which provides a projected loss of \$30.4 million to the state over the biennium. Perhaps it's my youth, but I honestly believe a university education is more valuable in the long run to the state economy than the repeal of the estate tax.

The other attitude is that of Mike Groene, a leader from the group that sponsored the state spending lid (Initiative 423) last November, who said to the *Lincoln Journal-Star* last September: "How much money do you want, anyway?"

Here's my answer: "Enough." Groene and other supporters of the spending lid were critical of NU for wasteful spending, including pointing out the scandal caused by former Chancellor Nancy Belck at UNO. This is just a red herring, though. What they really are saying is, if we work hard enough, we can find the money in the budget. Sadly, this is just not true for millions of dollars.

Money doesn't grow on trees at UNL's East Campus. Reducing NU's funding increase to this meager level when not in a time of dire economic decline seems recklessly irresponsible towards the future.

Heineman needs to look elsewhere for his tax cut and maintain funding of the university at least at a 3.3 percent increase, if not the full 6.5 percent we requested.

### Blue Statements



John Owens-Ream

control who you could have sex with, raise your tuition, restrict access to birth control and all sorts of other things that most college students aren't too happy about.

But the day-to-day operations of Congress have more to do with marginal tax rates than moral imperatives. And, frankly, most college students have better things to do than watch C-SPAN all day.

So, when talking to college students, Democrats have the same problem as political columnists like me: sometimes they get kind of boring. Does anyone remember when John Kerry went on and on about the Alternative Minimum Tax? Or Al Gore's lock box?

But I keep writing about politics, even when it might be easier to do a "Sex In The City" style social column, because there are two things I deeply believe.

First, even if they're not as exciting as *CSI-Las Vegas*, the issues being debated in far away Washington, D.C., still have a dramatic affect on the lives of college students right here in Omaha.

Second, while sometimes the candidates up for election seem alike, there are real differences in both the candidates and their parties. It matters who you vote for, and it matters who wins.

Allow me, for a minute, to explore those two ideas.

#### Proposition No. 1: Issues Matter.

Last November, the Democrats took control of Congress for the first time in 12 years. If you read my last column, you already know all about the 100 hour Plan, but the gist of it is as follows: Democrats had a list of new laws they promised

to pass during the first 100 hours of a Democratic Congress.

Well, the fifth bill they passed (about hour 41 to be exact) was called the College Student Relief Act of 2007 and focused on cutting the interest rates on college loans. Cutting them in half, to be specific.

Now, make no mistake about it, this bill will help college students. Each student taking out a loan will save as much as several thousand dollars. When you graduate, instead of spending money on interest payments, you can spend it on your first house.

But, this is also a good example of why it's hard to get people excited about politics, and why this stuff can sound kind of boring. The Dems cut interest rates from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent, but "We want 3.4 percent annual adjusted interest rates! And we want them now!" just doesn't make for a good bumper sticker.

#### Proposition No. 2: Voting matters.

In 2006 Jim Esch, a 30-year-old Democrat, ran against Lee Terry, the incumbent republican Congressman from Omaha. Now Jim easily won the college vote and narrowly won the city of Omaha, so maybe I'm preaching to the choir here (despite winning the city, he lost the suburbs and, thus, the election).

Still, the Esch vs. Terry Congressional race is a good example of why it matters whom you vote for and what the big differences between Democrats and Republicans are.

Let's take the first four major votes of the new Congress as an example. On every single one of those votes Terry voted "No". Esch, at some point in his campaign, promised to vote "Yes" on each and every one of those. That's a 100 percent difference between the Democrats and the Republicans.

Hopefully you'll agree with me that politics can have a real impact on our lives. The fact that Democrats just cut student loan rates means more money in my pocket and probably yours, too.

It's just a clear that there are major differences between the two parties, their candidates and what they stand for. The question you have to ask yourself is: which party better represents you?

## As the first 100 hours on Capital Hill ends, will America see bipartisanship?

### As Far As I'm Concerned



Matthew Lytle

On the night I was writing my last article, I found an article in one of the free copies of *USA Today* called "Common Ground," where syndicated columnist Cal Thomas, a conservative, and Democratic strategist Bob Beckel, a liberal, had a civil-sounding conversation about Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's "First 100 Hours Plan" and whether it

was possible for this Congress to actually show bipartisan cooperation in the next two years.

Before I read this, I thought that right out of the gate Democrats were breaking the promises they were making to the public. Apparently, when Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in 1994, something close to the same thing happened when the "Contract with America" was passed.

And, technically, this week would mark the end of the first 100 hours of this new session of Congress. But a few articles that came out last week have brought me concerns as well as something akin to hope.

According to an article from the Associated Press, Pelosi

had already passed through five of the six components of her plan, but the major worry came from comparing stopwatches. According to the official scoreboard, at the time of the article, Congress had been in session for more than 72 hours, yet Pelosi's stopwatch said that only 34 hours had passed.

Her explanation for the discrepancy: Her clock only

counts time spent on legislation. Wait a minute. Last time I checked, it wasn't the "First 100 legislative hours," it was the "First 100 hours." But these two times make me wonder: What's to stop them from either stretching out these 100 hours for the next two years, or granting themselves extensions to their time limit? Maybe I'm just afraid the next time I see Pelosi, she'll have a Darth Vader mask on and say, "I am altering the deal. Pray I don't alter it further."

Something else of importance surfaced when the Senate took a crack at the first of these power plays, a bill to try to curb the ethics problems that were a major laggard for the previous session. But, according again to the Associated Press, the bill hit a speed bump before its passage when Republican Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire wanted to tack on a restricted version of the line-item veto, which would apparently only be restricted to cutting the notorious pork-barrel projects.

Leading Democrats and Republicans made a huge ruckus over this bill, from Sen. Chuck Schumer's D-N.Y., accusation of Republicans wanting this bill killed, to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., accusing Democrats of the same thing, and even President Pro Tempore Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., complaining; that Sen. Gregg's proposal was a clear violation of the Constitution.

See **LYTLE**: Page 8

### WRITE TO US!

All readers are welcome to send their opinion or comments to the *Gateway*. Letters can be sent by mail, e-mail or fax. All letters should include the writer's name, address and phone number. Contact information will never be published. The *Gateway* reserves the right to reject letters or edit letters for clarity and space.

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Opinions in columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Gateway staff or the publications committee.

Letters to the editor will be selected for publication on the basis of timeliness, clarity

and available space. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for publication.

Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only.

Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.



From **LYTLE**: Page 7

In the end, the ethics reform was passed overwhelmingly, and Gregg's idea was given a bye of sorts, until they tackle the minimum wage hike. It looks like a baby step towards something resembling bipartisanship, but these guys have a long way to go before we get to that point.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that Democrats made a promise to the American people for a bipartisan Congress. There's some progress, but that can easily disappear just as quickly.

If I had the ears of Congressional Republicans, my game plan would be to hold back for about a week and see if your colleagues in charge are going to carry out their promise on their own. If they do, let's work together.

However, in the semi-likely case that they do break their promise, I'd recommend

taking a page out of their old playbook: filibuster. Hold on, folks, there's more. While we line someone up with a bottle of MDX and a good book, I'd offer to end the book-a-thon only on the condition that both parties sit down to compromise. Either that, or we could just rename the 110th Congress as "Story Time on Capitol Hill."

The last line of the aforementioned *USA Today* article, Beckel said, "I've heard thousands of politicians make and break promises. This time the voters are watching. If members of both parties don't deliver, I suspect they'll be looking for work after 2008."

Holding on to power after the 2008 election is the Democrats' to lose and both parties, hopefully, to win. That's as far as I'm concerned...

From **WOMEN'S B-BALL**: Page 6

North Dakota Saturday in Grand Forks.

The losses dropped UNO to 12-6 on the year and 0-4 in the NCC.

In both games, the Mavs kept the contest tight through the first period but fell victim to a second-half scoring burst that saw their opponent pull away with the win.

Thursday night senior Karen Thies hit a running jumper to even the score 36-36 at the break.

Unfortunately, the Coyotes came out of the locker room hot and went on an 18-2 run to open the second period. UNO finally found their rhythm, but it was too little, too late to make up the double-digit deficit and they dropped their third-straight conference game.

Freshman Alyssa Green led UNO with 12 points and Thies notched 10 points and a team-high seven rebounds.

On Saturday the Mavericks managed to keep pace with the top-ranked Fighting Sioux even deeper into the second half.

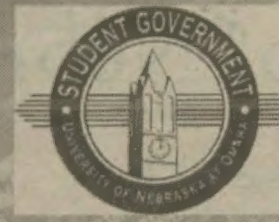
With UNO trailing North Dakota 51-38 just a few minutes after the break, a steal by senior Lacey Geitzenauer led to a three-pointer from freshman Ashley Nelson and ignited a 14-2 Maverick run that made the score 53-52 with 11:14 left.

But the outburst only seemed to awaken a sleeping giant, as UND erupted for 42 points in the final 11 minutes and left the Mavs behind.

Thies led the UNO squad with 16 points and seven rebounds and Green had another good offensive showing with 12 points.

The Mavericks will be trying for their first conference win again Thursday when they host Augustana at Sapp Fieldhouse.

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